Statement

Cases pertaining to suicide committed by Farmers in various States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures Reported by State Govts.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	258
		2004-05 (upto 31/12/2004)	758
2.	Karnataka***	2003-04	708
		2004-05 (upto 28/2/2005	216
3.	Maharashtra	2003	180
		2004	524
4.	Punjab	2003	2
		2004	-
5.	Kerala	2003	40
		2004	96
6.	Tamil Nadu	2004-05 (upto 30/9/04)	31

***Note:** As per the information furnished by the State Government of Karnataka, the figures are on the basis of records maintained by the State Agriculture Department.

Spurious Bt. cotton seeds

2045. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that unlicensed Bt. cotton seeds have made their way into the market in a big way; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that these illicit Bt. cotton seeds fail to germinate;

(c) whether cotton farmers are likely to suffer heavy loss as a result thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to keep a vigil on spurious seeds reaching the farmers; and

(e) whether illicit Bt. Cotton seed producers have been identified and any action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There have been reports of production and supply of spurious and poor quality of Bt. Cotton seeds in some States particularly in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka causing losses to the farmers.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation as well as Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) have also advised all the Bt. Cotton growing States from time to time to take punitive action against producers, suppliers and venders of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Legislations. Besides, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as referral laboratory for detecting the presence/absence of Bt. gene.

The concerned State Governments have taken necessary regulatory measures to check sale of illegal, unlabelled and spurious Bt. Cotton seeds. They have also undertaken massive compaign on this issue.

(e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted Special Squads to raid the premises of seed producers, processing plants and packing units, which in June, 2005 has seized 272.53 Qtles. of Bt. Cotton spurious seeds and 49 persons were arrested under Section IPC 420. Stop sale notices were issued for detention of stocks of Bt. Cotton hybrids NCS-145 in the State because of complaints about poor germination.

The Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka has also seized 1100 packets of fake Bt. seeds and spurious Bt. Cotton seed supplier has been arrested and a case filed against him.

Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra has seized 11636 packets of illegal Bt. Cotton seeds amounting Rs. 186.18 lakh and 24 police cases were filed against the persons involved in marketing of illegal Bt. Cotton seeds.